

Walesa visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Polish President Lech Walesa went before Israel's parliament on Monday to ask forgiveness for his nation, where three million people died during the World War II Nazi holocaust. Mr. Walesa was praised for his fight against communism and as a leader of a new Poland. But everywhere on his visit, including in the parliament where aging holocaust survivors sat before him as legislators, the Polish leader met the past. Mr. Walesa, born in 1943 as Nazi horrors unfolded, is the first Polish head of state to visit Israel. His four-day visit was seen as a quest for peace between the two peoples. "Here in Israel, in the cradle of your culture and revival, I am asking your forgiveness," Mr. Walesa told reporters after meeting Mr. Shimon Peres, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters after meeting Mr. Walesa that he accepted the Polish leader's plea for forgiveness. "I think there was nothing more natural than this (request). I accept it very favourably. After all today we are establishing normal ties between the two peoples and two countries. It's good that people are aware of what happened in the past," he said. Mr. Shamir said he had accepted Mr. Walesa's invitation to visit Poland.

Volume 16 Number 4705

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 7, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

White House —
Sanctions should
stay on Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday economic sanctions should remain on Iraq until Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is gone from power. "All possible sanctions will be maintained until he is gone," said White House spokesman Marin Fitzwater. He said that because of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion and occupation of Kuwait, "Saddam is discredited and cannot be redeemed." He said discussion was continuing on whether the United Nations would allow a partial lifting of the sanctions to allow Iraq to export oil to begin paying reparations to Kuwait.

U.N. to give \$17m
in food to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations will send food worth \$17 million to Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Monday. INA said Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Said Al Sahaf signed a "memorandum of understanding" with the representative in Baghdad of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Saleh Bourguini, for providing Iraq with 35,000 tonnes of food. It did not say how and when the shipment will be delivered. INA quoted Mr. Sahaf as saying the shipment would be "devoted to the aged, women and children."

Kuwait recalls
Sudanese pilots

KHARTOUM (R) — Kuwait Airways wants its Sudanese pilots and engineers to return to work, a Kuwaiti diplomat told the official Sudan News Agency. Thousands of Sudanese worked in Kuwait before Iraq's invasion last August, when many fled. For most of them their chances of returning to their former jobs are in doubt because Kuwait wants to reduce dependence on foreign workers, especially from countries which supported Iraq. SUNA quoted the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Mohammad Al Nasir, on Monday as saying the airline was calling on all Sudanese pilots and engineers to return immediately and resume work.

Saudis say oil
still leaking from
Kuwaiti, Iraqi ports

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia said Monday that oil was still spilling into the Gulf from damaged Iraqi and Kuwaiti export terminals nearly three months after the end of the Gulf war. The Dharan-based Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) said an aerial survey on Sunday showed crude oil leaking from Kuwait's Al Ahmadi port, sunken oil tankers near Iraq's Al Bakr port and from the Bakr export terminal itself. "The survey team has noticed that the spilling is still continuing from all these sources. Diminishing visibility has prevented investigation into whether there are other sources," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted MEPA as saying in a report. The state-run Saudi Aramco said it has mopped up nearly one-sixth of the six million barrels estimated to have poured into the Gulf during the war that ended in February.

Briton in space links
with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — A Soyuz spaceship carrying the first British cosmonaut linked up with the Soviet Mir orbital station on Monday, TASS news agency said. Soyuz TM-12, manned by cosmonauts Anatoly Artsebarsky and Sergei Krikalyov and 27-year-old British chemist Helen Sharman, docked at 1431 GMT with the station that has been the mainstay of the Soviet space programme for the last five years. The spaceship had blasted off from the Baikonur space centre in Soviet Central Asia Saturday. Ms. Sharman is expected to return to Earth on May 26 with the current crew of Mir, Musa Manarov and Viktor Afanasyev, who have been in space for more than five months. Artsebarsky and Krikalyov will then stay in space for their own mission.

U.N. sets up fund
to channel Iraqi
revenues to pay
for war damages

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council Monday voted overwhelmingly to create a compensation fund for victims of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

The council voted 14-0, with Cuba abstaining, to create the fund, which will be governed by a council in Geneva.

Fund officials will decide what portion of Iraq's oil profits will be set aside to pay war damages and how often payments will be made into the fund.

The U.S.-initiated resolution also threatens to retain sanctions indefinitely if Iraq does not abide by the decisions of the council or its subsidiaries or compensation payments, which are estimated at billions of dollars for Kuwait alone.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will set the ceiling on the percentage of Iraqi oil revenues that may be used to pay claims from individuals, corporations and governments.

U.S. officials have argued that up to 50 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues should go into the compensation fund, while developing countries have called for as little as five per cent.

Britain has recommended about a quarter of Iraq's oil revenues be used to pay claims, basing the figure on the percentage of Iraq's revenues allegedly previously spent on arms.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on such payments, saying its foreign debts and re-

(Continued on page 5)

Barzani 'very satisfied' with
progress in Baghdad talks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani was quoted on Monday by an Iraqi magazine as saying he was "very satisfied" with progress made in talks with the government on greater autonomy for the Kurds.

"I and other members of my delegation are very satisfied," said Mr. Barzani, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader who is heading eight rebel groups in the Baghdad negotiations.

"I am confident that we are on the brink of a new phase of Arab-Kurdish brotherhood based on mutual confidence and aimed at achieving a united Iraq," Alef Bar magazine quoted him as saying in an advance copy of its Wednesday edition.

Mr. Barzani called on his Kurdish compatriots, many of whom fled to mountains on Iraq's borders with Iran and Turkey after their failed rebellion last March, to return to their homes in northern Iraq "as soon as possible." It said.

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose de Deus Pinheiro (Petra photo)

Portugal supports
U.S.-led peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro Monday paid a one-day visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on Middle East questions and bilateral relations.

The talks with the King covered regional and international issues as well as issues of common interest to Portugal and Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. de Deus Pinheiro discussed with Prince Hassan regional cooperation, and future relations between the European Community and the Arab World.

The Prince and the Portuguese minister reviewed Israeli practices in the occupied territories, including its continued building of Jewish settlements on Arab land, Petra said.

The Portuguese minister voiced his country's total support for American efforts for peace in

(Continued on page 5)

for security and cooperation with in the Mediterranean basin was also discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Masri.

Earlier, Mr. Masri held a meeting with the Portuguese minister on peace efforts, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Jordan's role in the peace process.

The two sides stressed the need for Israel to halt its settlement programmes so as not to endanger the peace process, Petra said.

Mr. de Deus Pinheiro, who arrived here in the course of a tour of the region, said that he made the visit in order to have a close hand look into the situation in advance of Portugal's assumption of the chairmanship of the European Community (EC) presidency in July.

He said that he intended to discuss the consequences, of the Gulf war, Europe's relations with the Arab World and other issues of common concern.

The Portuguese minister voiced his country's total support for American efforts for peace in

(Continued on page 5)

Lahd says
treaty with
Syria may
block Israeli
withdrawal

BAGHDAD (R) — A Senior United Nations official said Monday he was worried about cholera in Iraq and estimated that the number of cases could be up to ten times more than the 94 reported by Iraqi authorities.

"Certainly we are pre-occupied now, very worried," said Gianni Murzi, the representative in Iraq for the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Mr. Murzi and the director of Baghdad's Qadisiyah General Hospital, where all 12 cases in the capital have been confirmed in laboratory tests, said the situation was under control and nobody had died.

But Mr. Murzi said the figure of 94 cholera cases in 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces "could be from half of the true cases to only 10 per cent" because poor communications made collecting information difficult.

Mr. Murzi said the scattered incidents of cholera did not point for the time being to an epidemic

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Mubarak reshuffles cabinet

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak appointed Amr Moussa, 54, Egypt's permanent U.N. representative, as foreign minister replacing Esmaa' Abdul Meguid, Egypt's state-run television said Monday.

Boutros Ghali, 68, minister of state for foreign affairs, was promoted to deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, immigration and international co-operation.

The shakeup was intended primarily to fill two vacancies in the four-year-old cabinet of Prime Minister Atef Sedki. But it also included the surprise replacement of the defence minister. No reason was given.

The decree said Lt. Gen. Mohammad Hussein Tantawi, director of military operations, replaced Gen. Youssef Saify Abu Taleh as defence minister.

Boutros Ghali, who was the Foreign Ministry's second man as minister of state, was promoted to deputy premier responsible for foreign relations and was given the additional portfolio handing Egyptian expatriate affairs.

Mr. Ghali, the Islamic country's highest-ranking Coptic Christian, had been minister of state for foreign affairs since 1977, when Mr. Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat launched a Middle East peace initiative. Mr. Ghali was among the architects of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The education portfolio, vacant since its holder Ahmad Fa'thi Sourour became parliament speaker last year, was assigned to Hussein Kamel Bahaeddin.

Mahmoud Sherif, Cairo's governor, was appointed minister of local government, a new portfolio

in Mr. Sedki's 31-member cabinet.

Mr. Moussa has been considered for some time a rising star in Egypt's diplomatic hierarchy. He was a member of the National Committee for Taba, a border enclave that Egypt recovered from Israel in 1989 after a seven-year diplomatic and legal battle.

Mr. Mubarak gave evidence of his high regard for Mr. Moussa last August by summoning him home from the United Nations for an Arab summit to deal with Iraq's invasion and approved dispatch of Arab troops to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries.

Mr. Ghali has been extremely close to Mr. Mubarak on foreign relations, particularly regarding European and African affairs, since the president took office in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated Sadat.

Government sources admit that Mr. Ghali's religion probably accounts for his failure to become foreign minister. Like the defence portfolio, the foreign ministry and most other ministries traditionally have been held by Muslims.

Mr. Mubarak appeared to try and make it up to Mr. Ghali, however, by raising his cabinet rank and giving him the expatriate portfolio in addition. This meant dropping from the cabinet Fouad Iskandar, minister of expatriate affairs and one of three Copts in the previous cabinet.

Gen. Tantawi, the new defence chief, played a key role in planning the operations of Egyptian forces sent to Saudi Arabia with the U.S.-led military coalition.

When U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded

coalition forces, visited Cairo last month en route home from the Gulf, he had special praise for Gen. Tantawi as well as Lt.-Gen. Salah Halaby, commander of the Egyptian task force.

In a separate decree on Monday, Mr. Mubarak named Mr. Halaby chief of staff of armed forces, apparently in recognition of his Gulf service. Gen. Halaby replaced Lt. Gen. Safeddin Abu Shaf, whose tour of duty ended.

Gen. Tantawi, 56, fought in the 1956, 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars. She served as military attaché in Pakistan and Afghanistan and commanded the 2nd army in the Suez Canal area. He had charge of the elite Republican Guards, responsible for the president's safety, before becoming director of military operations.

A seasoned diplomat and an academic, Mr. Ghali has been in the cabinet without interruption for 14 years, a record in 35-year-old republican Egypt. He moves with ease from diplomatic chanceries and negotiating tables to university auditoriums to lecture on his speciality, international law.

Dr. Ghali, named for his grandfather, Prince Minister Butros Ghali Pasha, hails from an old family with roots in southern Egypt.

Foreign Minister Moussa, who will work under Dr. Ghali's supervision, began his foreign ministry career as attaché in 1958. He was ambassador to India for four years until 1987, when he was appointed director of the ministry's International Organisations Department. He was named head of his country's U.N. delegation in 1989.

Cooperation will be essential because no party holds the majority needed to elect a new president of parliament when the new legislature meets on May 30.

Akel leader Demetris Christofides told reporters his party's local operation "has counterbalance the negative impact coming from abroad," a reference to the collapse of Communist parties in Eastern Europe.

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was the centre-right Democratic Party of former President Spyros

Right and left gain in Cypriot election

NICOSIA (AP) — Rightists and leftists committed to talks on revoicing this divided island scored gains in parliamentary elections, officials reported Monday.

The right-wing Democratic Rally led all parties in Sunday's voting with 35.8 per cent. The Communist Party, Akel, won 30.6 per cent, up from 27.4 per cent in the last election in 1985.

Both support President George Vassiliou's policy of pursuing U.N.-backed talks with the Turkish Cypriots who have held the northern part of the island since a 1974 Turkish invasion.

Mr. Vassiliou, an independent, retains his post regardless of Sunday's balloting.

Democratic Rally gained one seat, to 20, in the 56-member parliament. Akel gained three seats, to 18.

Democratic Rally leader Glafkos Clerides said after the vote that his party has "cooperated with all the political powers on the island and will continue to do so."

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Air Vice-Marshall Ian Macfadyen, commander of British forces in the Middle East, said there were 1,100 British troops in Kuwait and 5,600 in the whole area, including forces at sea. At the peak of the conflict Britain had 5,000 troops in the region.

Kuwait has expressed interest in keeping some allied troops deployed on its territory, while Saudi Arabia has said it wants all foreign troops to withdraw from the kingdom and has discouraged stockpiling arms there.

An Arab plan for a joint regional force collapsed when Egypt decided to withdraw its troops, reportedly out of spite that Kuwait preferred Westerners.

The United States has about 5,000 troops in Kuwait and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said last week that new troops would be deployed in mid-June and remain at least until Sept. 1.

British troops to stay in 'insecure' Kuwait

Saudi Arabia, is to return to Britain on Wednesday.

He said he thought it would be "some months" before the British forces could withdraw.

"If anybody asks 'when,' you won't get a straight answer. We think it should be pretty soon," he said.

There have been some complaints among the troops, who were told April 1 that they would be in the desert in seven days, that they could not make any plans because they did not know how long they would be in Kuwait.

They were told April 30 to prepare to withdraw, but the order was cancelled three days later.

The defense minister tried to assure them that they were doing an important job.

"The need for you to come here was vital because we have to

make sure that people here continue to have the confidence, the reassurance, that we won't disappear right at the end of the battle, but will continue to keep our interest and be willing to to do so," he said.

Mr. King said British forces had played an important role in liberating Kuwait in February after seven months of Iraqi occupation.

He said they needed to finish the job by making sure that "Kuwait stays liberated and there is no doubt in our determination to see the Gulf now become a much safer and secure place."

With Iraq now accepting the peace terms set by the United Nations and with troops from the United Nations deployed, Mr. King said the need for British troops here had diminished.

Some would stay indefinitely in advisory roles, he said.

War trials fail to faze Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The start of martial-law trials for people accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation drew little public attention Sunday in Kuwait's opulent Palace of Justice.

Two women, hoping for word about sons arrested right after liberation and not heard from since, were the only civilian spectators to show up in court.

Inside, maintenance workers cleaned dust from chairs and closed windows, assuring reporters and diplomatic observers that the air conditioning was in fact working.

Charges were read off rapidly by the presiding judge, without benefit of corroborating witnesses or other evidence.

No one, for example, produced the Saddam Hussein T-shirt that was a factor in one defendant's receiving a 15-year jail term.

The sixth floor courtroom seemed an example of some of the Kuwaiti wealth.

The judges sat behind a massive teak bench. Behind them, a six-metre wall was covered in an intricate design that echoed the motifs of Islamic art during its golden age around the 11th century.

The bottom half was a mosaic of Arab scenes mostly in green and blue tiles, while the carved stucco above it was delicately designed in pale blues and browns.

The art contrasted starkly with the brown metal cage holding the prisoners off to one side.

Dressed in a variety of T-shirts and pajama tops, they were brought in with tight plastic cords on their wrists. Some immediately buried their faces in their hands when they were released.

The one woman defendant had a guard of her own in a regular seat on the opposite side of the courtroom. She quietly proclaimed her innocence to the first reporter who walked over.

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Britain's Defence Secretary Tom King said Monday that it would be months before the approximately 1,100 British troops stationed here go home because the emirate remained insecure about Iraq.

"There is still a nervousness in Kuwait after all the shocks that they experienced with the original invasion," Mr. King said, addressing several hundred soldiers of the 2nd battalion Royal Anglian Regiment gathered in the desert 100 kilometres north of the city.

Mr. King said the date for the final withdrawal would be set soon, but it would depend in part with talks scheduled for later Monday with Crown Prince Saad Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, and consultations within the cabinet of Prime Minister John Major in London.

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Hostage issue plagues CIA nominee and Bush

promising Iranians weapons shipments after the presidential inauguration day.

The hostages, who had been held 444 days, were released just minutes after Mr. Gates took the oath of office in January 1981. The house Democratic leadership has approved a preliminary staff investigation into the allegations about Mr. Bush's role.

Mr. Gates, a 25-year CIA veteran, may have a hostage problem stemming from Mr. Reagan's effort in 1985-86 to sell Iran weapons in return for Americans snatched by groups in Lebanon.

Combined with the illegal diversion of money from the Iranian sales to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, the deal provoked the most serious crisis of Mr. Reagan's presidency.

Everyone in the Reagan administration did their best to get out from under it, including Mr. Gates, whom Mr. Reagan nominated as CIA director. Two weeks after his February 1987 confirmation hearings, Mr. Gates asked that his nomination be withdrawn.

Mr. Bush angrily denies it. Travel logs place him in Washington during dates in October 1980 when he was supposedly in Paris

and questions over his role in the Iran-contra scandal.

He hadn't known much about the White House's secret deals with Iran, Mr. Gates insisted to the Senate Intelligence Committee in February 1987.

"I basically lost touch with the project" early in 1986, Mr. Gates said under oath.

What about a troublesome Nov. 25, 1985, Hawk missile shipment to Iran that occurred without written authorization from Mr. Reagan? Mr. Gates said the first he heard about anything going to Iran was at a Dec. 5, 1985, meeting with CIA officials.

"There were some references to a plane that had flown a week or so before," Mr. Gates said. "We didn't know what that plane was or anything about it, but there was discussion with the operational people in the room about the fact that there were likely to be other such planes."

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Qadhafi: Abu Nidal not in Libya

CAIRO (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Sunday that Palestinian guerrilla chief Abu Nidal, named by Washington as head of the world's most dangerous group, was not based in Libya.

"Abu Nidal does not work from Libya," said Col. Qadhafi at a joint news conference in the Libyan coastal town of Ras Lanuf with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"He is not in Libya. Since the first and the second Gulf war, he is no longer here," Col. Qadhafi said in remarks carried by Egypt's national Middle East News Agency (MENA).

The first Gulf war, between Iran and Iraq, lasted from 1980 to 1988. The second Gulf conflict started on Jan. 17 and ended on Feb. 28 when U.S.-led forces pushed Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Sahri Al Banna, better known by his nom de guerre Abu Nidal, is accused by the United States of carrying out over 90 attacks since 1974 to 20 countries.

Abu Nidal split from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1973. Since then he has topped the international wanted lists for attacks.

Shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2, U.S. administration sources said unconfirmed reports suggested that Abu Nidal may have returned to Baghdad after a seven-year rift.

He was headquartered in Iraq from 1974 to 1983, but when he fell out with the government he moved his operations to Syria until 1987 after which he was reported to have gone to Libya.

Qadhafi said there was an Abu Nidal in Libya, but he was a Libyan doctor who worked for the Red Crescent Society.

"He is in charge of the Red Crescent and there were telegrams coming out of Abu Nidal's camps which were in fact Red Crescent camps," Col. Qadhafi said.

"We went to these camps, searched them and found the Libyan Abu Nidal, not the well-known Abu Nidal."

Mr. Mubarak, according to MENA, interrupted Col. Qadhafi and said: "It is true. Abu Nidal is not in Libya."

Government under heavy criticism from leftists, nationalists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Several political parties, associations and organisations strongly attacked the government Monday for what they called a series of "anti-democracy actions" that aim at taking the country back to pre-democracy days."

In a statement addressed to the "Jordanian masses," four umbrella groups representing mainly leftist and nationalist ideologies said that the measures were reflected in "clear government attempts to paralyse the role and effectiveness of Parliament" by incorporating some parliamentary blocks into the government and by giving them a "comfortable mechanical majority" and rendering the people unable to express themselves.

"This has been going on at a time when citizens of this country proved, over the past two years, that they were capable of shouldering national responsibility and abiding by actions that tend to serve the cause of public interest — a tendency that is helping to bridge the gap between government and people, a process that could not be possible before April of 1989," said the statement.

It noted that the measures and recent practices of the government were only bound to increase tension and public indignation, tended to undermine the past achievements and sowed seeds of discord, suspicion and complaint.

"These government practices," the statement continued, "can only increase anxiety and concern over actions pursued by forces hostile to democracy through cancelling political and social achievements."

The statement pointed out that the government's ability to "paralyse" Parliament and stop it from enacting democratic laws and holding public officers to account for their past deeds "is causing further strains and concern among members of the public."

"The government has succeeded in doing that and chose to incorporate certain parliamentary blocks in government, bnsioes and granted such blocks a mechanical majority in Parliament," the statement added. "These measures have disrupted the march of democracy," it said.

The statement asked the government about the fate of its promises to cancel martial laws, about passing the national charter that would have opened the way for political pluralism and arrangements for assuming political life.

The statement accused the government of re-opening talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to "increase the burdens on the public."

The statement said that "the series of measures adopted lately reflect the existence of an official will to take this country backwards." The statement did not specify the "measures."

"These measures and ac-

tions only add to the popular tension and indignation and stab in the back all of our achievements until now," the statement added.

The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Association (JANDA), the National Jordanian Youth Coalition, the Central Council for Jordanian Professionals' Association and the Jordanian Women's Committee for the Steadfastness of Arabs were the signatories of the political statement.

In general terms the statement pointed to the continued application of martial laws and the delay in the announcement of the national charter as the steps that need to be crossed before "political life is reorganized."

The statement however accused the government of hindering political meetings and peaceful marches, continuing a policy of arrests and interrogation and limiting the freedom of the press.

These measures, the statement says, "are covered up with illogical excuses."

However, sources inside JANDA criticised the final draft of the statement saying that it failed to mention important issues such as education and the limited number of parties who signed it.

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public pressure on Parliament

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة الأردن اليومية независимая политическая газета на английском языке, издаваемая Фондом Печати Иордании

الطبعة الأولى الصادرة في 21 مايو 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KATEED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEY

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation

University Road, P.O. Box 6719, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 578141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Faximile: 551242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Not a taxing review

PRIOR TO the Gulf crisis, Jordan was on its way to economic recovery after making a series of adjustments in its fiscal and economic policies and introducing overdue reforms in them. Then the Kuwaiti issue erupted sweeping with it all hope to reverse quickly the country's economic and fiscal woes. Suddenly the economy of Jordan once again dipped to all times low and for a while the Kingdom seemed heading for economic disaster. Fortunately, however, the Jordanian economy proved once again that it is resilient and robust enough to stand the challenge. Now that the Gulf war is behind us, there is a renewed determination to forge new economic and fiscal policies that promise to push the nation's economy out of its existing stagnation and lead it once again to recovery and prosperity.

No doubt part and parcel of plans being contemplated to uplift the economy is the taxation policy that the government is invited to review and reconsider in the light of the experiences of the successful industrial nations of the world. There is no way to generate business and commerce and even industrialisation in the country without an enlightened taxation policy that aims not to only to create employment opportunities but also energise the wheels of industry and trade in the country. The most defeating taxation policy that Amman may envisage is the shortsighted one that aims to collect revenues right and left with no due consideration to the negative side effects of such immediate goals on the overall economy. What is urgently needed, instead, is a more liberal and open taxation policy with a vision and a perspective that can promote business, encourage industrialisation and generate new employment opportunities. Such broad objectives cannot be realised without a taxation policy that encourages expenditures by Jordanian businesses and individuals in matters such as advertising, public relation outlays, research, promotional campaigns and even travel. Only by making such expenditures and other related expenses less burdensome on the most liberal terms and conditions, can the king hope to create additional opportunities for earning additional tax revenues. The wheels of Jordanian economy in all its aspects and dimensions need to be reenergised through a visionary tax system. Now is the time to do just that.

In this vein, one could suggest the establishment of a high blue ribbon committee composed of all sectors of Jordanian business activities with a view to reviewing the existing taxation policy in Jordan and submit recommendations on rectifying its existing failing features. There is no country under the sun that succeeded in modernising its economy and forged ahead with its economic planning without an equally modern and progressive taxation policy as a basis for such ambitious planning. The proposed commission would be entrusted to accomplish just that objective by balancing conflicting criteria in a harmonious formula. Now is the time to create such a body since time is opportune to reconstruct the Jordanian economy on new foundations appropriate to the dictates of the nineties and beyond.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL'S arrogance and rejection of the international community's will not last for long should the United States decide that the Middle East must also come under the international legitimacy and enjoy peace and stability, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. There is only one international legitimacy which the Zionist enemy continues to reject, unless the U.S. Council resolutions are implemented, the paper noted. Only the United States holds the authority over questions related to security, justice and peace; and it can put an end to the sufferings of people in this region regardless of Sharon's continued rejections and his settlement policies in Arab land, the paper stressed. It said that the world realises that the Soviet Union and the other European nations can play a role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, but everyone realises that the meaningful role in this matter can be played only by the United States which ought to impose its will and that of the world community on Sharon and his government. The paper said that holding on to other countries' lands can by no means achieve peace; and the United States ought to force the Jewish state to renounce aggression and become a useful member of the world community not a source of danger to mankind. The paper urged Washington to work towards safeguarding America's credibility as a superpower which supports the causes of justice, human dignity and security.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on King Hussein's visit to Damascus and described it as the beginning of wide scale contacts on the part of Jordan to unify Arab ranks in the face of the ongoing efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. We believe that the Egyptian president's visit to Damascus and the visit by PLO official Farouq Al Qaddourni to Amman fall within the framework of concerted Arab endeavours to reach the aspired unified stand, said the daily. The King's efforts to convene a meeting by the Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict are timely and come at a moment when the Arab people of Palestine are confronting a war of genocide at the hands of the Zionist authorities. The paper said that the King's visit to Damascus and his talks with the Syrian president served as another gesture by the monarch to warn the Arabs of the need of a unified stand to confront Israel's manoeuvres on the one hand and to be ready for any peace plans on the other. It said it was high time for the U.S. administration to listen to one Arab voice and to see a united Arab stand; and it is time for the Arabs to confront the Israeli aggression with one united effort and abort the Jewish state's expansionist designs.

The View from Fourth Circle

Militarisation and pauperisation of the Arab World

WHILE the Middle East still calculates the true human and political costs of the recent Gulf war, first estimates are providing a gruesome picture of the ultimate financial cost of the crisis to the Arabs. The calculations, and the political reality they represent, provide sobering food for thought about the total dimensions of the Gulf conflict.

Those of us who take a historical view of events and who believe in the national integrity of the Arab people have long argued that one of the main reasons for Arab failure, collapse and humiliation has been the exploitation of this region's natural and financial resources by the predominantly western superpowers of this world. The total financial cost of the Gulf conflict supports the contention that the war should be properly analysed within the perspective of the scramble for resources between the affluent north and the poor south. Within this context, massive military sales to the Middle East play a prominent role in transferring wealth from the poor to the rich.

While complete figures will not be clear for a while yet, initial estimates place the financial cost of the Gulf crisis at around \$400 billion. This includes the cost of the nearly seven-month-long confrontation, the 40-day war, lost business and family incomes during the crisis, and the cost of reconstructing war damage in Kuwait, Iraq and neighbouring countries. If the additional anticipated costs of establishing new "security" systems in the region are added to the equation, the ultimate real cost of the conflict could easily top \$500 billion. This compares to total gross domestic product of all the Arab countries of \$375 billion in 1988.

Not only will the Arabs spend most of this \$500 billion price tag on rebuilding infrastructural and oil installations which they had already paid for once. This money will also deprive the Arab countries of investments in water, agriculture, productive industries and needed social services, and the bulk of it will flow back to the industrialised western countries in the form of arms and industrial contracts.

Such a massive net transfer of resources out of the Arab World will further pauperise a Middle East region which finds itself at the tail end of a seven-year-old regional recession which has seen per capita incomes in most Arab countries fall steadily in real terms since 1983. Most of the Arab countries, especially those in the Gulf, are buying poverty and perpetual dependence on the western powers.

To make matters even worse, the heightened political insecurity and instability of the region will usher in a renewed period of long-term capital flight, as Arab private savings and government funds gravitate to safer deposits and investments in the industrialised countries. An estimated \$25 billion in capital flight took place during the recent crisis, and I doubt any of it has trickled back yet. In the next few years, the governments of several Arab oil-producing states will find themselves transformed instantly from net creditors to net borrowers.

The Saudi Arabian government, burdened by war commitments of some \$65 billion, has already borrowed around \$3.5 billion from international banks, and has given Saudi Arabian public sector corporations the green light to tap the world credit markets. Saudi Arabia's state budget deficit was projected at \$6.6 billion last year, but because of war-related spending it ballooned to over \$15 billion, and is expected to nearly double again this

year.

This transformation of the region into a wholesale debtor comes at a particularly trying moment, when new international creditworthiness and capital adequacy rules established by the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements will make lending by international banks to Arab parties more difficult, and more expensive for the borrowing countries or corporations.

Massive spending on armaments in recent years is a major cause of the Arab World's economic problems today. The Middle East is the world's most militaristic region, leading the world tables in several categories. Recent American, British and IMF studies point out the leading role that arms purchases play in bringing the Arab World to a state of financial vulnerability. During the last decade, when the Arab World was widely perceived to be a rich region, total Arab foreign debt increased from around \$20 billion to over \$200 billion, much of it to buy arms.

We think that the Arab World is an astounding cash cow — the West milks us for our oil and natural resources, pays us in cash, and then milks us again by taking that cash in return for selling us arms and other things that have not helped bring Arab stability, national identity or deep and balanced economic progress.

During the period 1978 and 1988, total Arab arms purchases from abroad were worth some \$220 billion (in constant 1988 dollars), most of which were imported from the leading industrialised countries. The leading arms buyers were Iraq (\$66 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$40 billion), Syria (\$29 billion), Libya (\$23 billion) and Egypt (\$14 billion). Total Arab arms imports averaged 16.6 per cent of total Arab imports, the highest ratio in the world (followed by South Asia 11.3 per cent Africa at 8.8 per cent and Latin America at 3.8 per cent).

In the 1975-88 period, total Arab military expenditures averaged 11 per cent of total Arab gross national product (GNP), compared to 5.7 per cent for the United States, 3.4 per cent for India, 2.5 per cent for Spain and less than 1 per cent for Mexico. Security and defence spending consistently accounts for an average of 25 per cent of Arab central government spending, reaching 55 per cent in Syria and Oman, 42 per cent in the UAE, and 33 per cent in Bahrain, Libya and Qatar. By the mid-1980s, Arab countries accounted for nine of the world's top 13 countries in terms of military spending relative to GNP.

Recent IMF and International Institute of Strategic Studies (London) figures also show that the Arab states have the world's highest absolute military expenditures, ranging from Iraq's \$28.60 spent on defence from every \$100 of government earnings, followed by Oman (\$19.50), Saudi Arabia (\$18.19), and Syria (\$11.21).

Blaming others for self-inflicted ills

By George Shadromi

CAIRO — It is time Arabs stopped bemoaning imperialism and Israeli conspiracies and, as the American singer Michael Jackson might say, take a hard look at the man in the mirror.

What would they see? For starters:

A dictatorship still alive and well in Iraq. CNN is no longer broadcasting on my television these days, but I will assume that Palestinians, Jordanians and Sudanese are not cheering the deaths of 1,000 Kurds a day.

A rising tide of extremism and intolerance, perhaps, to be expected during times of war — but only if one accepts that Saddam Hussein was someone on whose behalf energy and even life should be expended.

Corruption epitomised, perhaps, by the emir in Kuwait, who initially seemed more worried about his gold-plated bathroom fixtures than about the internal problems in his devastated country.

The post-Gulf war situation is not unlike that which faced the Arab World after the 1967 war, when Arab leaders and intellectuals all over the world asked a terrifying question: What ails us? All kinds of theories were formulated — the failure of Islam, the failure to embrace Islam, a Western conspiracy against the Arabs, an inability to modernise, the second class political status of women. One scholar went so far as to cite the toilet training of children.

Rigid class structures, the systematic repression of women, stifling bureaucracies and an unwillingness among many citizens

to embrace manual labour as a healthy and worthy pursuit for rich and poor alike.

A Sudanese government is shambles, a Lebanese government dominated by Syria, a Syrian government without a spark of democracy, an Algerian government on the verge of fundamentalist retrogression, a Jordanian people embracing extremism, a Palestinian movement betraying its highest ideals.

Why go on?

Those who seek to blame the West and Israel for all of this have either lost touch with reality or hope to further mislead the Arab masses in order to protect their own interest in the status quo. Even if it were true that this all stems from a grand conspiracy (and it isn't), one would have to wonder how it is that Arab leaders cannot but step into the minefield laid by their adversaries. Perhaps the time has come for free elections and change of the sort witnessed recently in Eastern Europe.

The post-Gulf war situation is not unlike that which faced the Arab World after the 1967 war, when Arab leaders and intellectuals all over the world asked a terrifying question: What ails us? All kinds of theories were formulated — the failure of Islam, the failure to embrace Islam, a Western conspiracy against the Arabs, an inability to modernise, the second class political status of women. One scholar went so far as to cite the toilet training of children.

But no one more accurately or

eloquently summed up the problem than Cecil Hourani, in an essay entitled "The Moment of Truth." Hourani placed the blame right where it belonged — on the Arabs and their psychological obsession with Israel.

I do not mean to suggest that Israel is not responsible for some of the problems in the region. Israel and its proponents have destroyed hundreds of Palestinian villages and thousands of homes; they have perpetrated acts of terrorism and systematically violated the human rights of many Arabs; their invasion of Lebanon was essentially unprovoked and led to the massacre of thousands of people. But, at the risk of blaming the victim, it is nevertheless fair to speculate — as Hourani did — on why the Arabs have allowed themselves to be constantly put in a position where their victimisation becomes a matter of course.

For example, one would think that war as a credible weapon against Israel or the West had been discredited, if only because of the realities of power. And yet, Arab states continue to devote tremendous resources to war, supposedly in the name of containing Israel, though the main victims wind up being Kuwaitis, Kurds, Palestinians, fundamentalists, leftists and Shias, many of whom have had the temerity to challenge a ruling regime.

Almost without exception, every war has either left Israel

stronger than before or left the Arabs as a whole weaker, except, ironically, the one war in which Israel never faced an army fielded by an Arab state — the 1967 invasion of Lebanon.

The intifada had just started to reshape the dynamics of the situation in the occupied territories when Saddam screamed "war," and half the Arab World and the majority of Palestinians stood up, saluted and committed political and military suicide. Millions of Arabs who once embraced Nasrallah, who at least had a legitimate vision, turned to Saddam Hussein, whose great accomplishments to date include the destruction of three Middle East countries, the deaths of perhaps a million people and the near devastation of the regional economy and environment.

Had the Arabs followed Hourani's advise, they would have spent the past 20 years playing to their inherent strengths — fostering regional economic development; letting demographic realities take their course; applying international pressure and allowing pluralism and tolerance to take root in their own homelands.

"The most immediate and urgent problems which face nearly all the Arab countries are those involved with establishing the minimum conditions on which a modern society may eventually be built," Hourani wrote. "We have vast territories, enormous natural resources, and vital strategic positions ... What we cannot afford is to have no policy at all, to be unable to support the conditions of war, and incapable of profiting from advantages of peace."

It is not too late for Arab societies to escape this cycle of self-destruction and set itself on a tough, but realistic course.

A few ideas:

The Kuwaitis and Saudis, not to mention elites throughout the region, could do something constructive by pouring money into useful projects and institutions rather than meaningless consumer goods and a decadent lifestyle. For example, during the 1960s there was a great deal of discussion about building desalination plants in order to meet the water demands in the Levant.

Desalination plants, paid for by the United States, Japan and the Gulf states (after they repair damage to their own region), could eliminate an explosive issue and address a basic need in the area. What does it matter if Israelis benefit? Why should Arabs go thirsty while Israelis siphon off their water, which is the scenario unfolding? solve the problem for everyone and you solve the problem.

The Arab League could do something bold for a change by setting up an investment fund to which countries in the region and around the world contribute. The fund would be used to develop stronger democratic institutions and economies. Grants would be tied to concrete advancements in human rights and democratisation.

Arab intellectuals from throughout the region could hold a conference at which they formulate their own ideas on how to rebuild the Arab Nation and end the state of conflict. They could start by collectively advocating a free press and denouncing torture, tyranny and anti-democratic measures by any and all who practice them.

The Arab states must recognise Israel's right to exist and extend to Israel the hand of peace. This is the strongest diplomatic card the Arabs have and the time to play it is now, while the world is sincerely committed to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. I suspect much of the world, already annoyed with Israeli intransigence, would move behind the Arabs in a concerted effort to push Israel into a more flexible course.

Hourani's basic concern lingers: Is the need to humble Israel more important to Arabs than their own economic and political health? If the answer is yes, then Arabs will continue to be the victims of dictators whose only claim to legitimacy is a desire to wage war (and doing it badly at that) and others who seek to exploit the region rather than promote its independence and

prosperity. Not even the injustices done to the Palestinians warrant endless warfare at the expense of 200 million people from the Atlantic to the Indian oceans. And, it could be convincingly argued, the Palestinians themselves would have benefited far more had they chosen an aggressive but nonviolent course in their quest for a homeland. There is no guarantee, in the end, that Israel will choose peace over land. The Arabs cannot — however just their claims — force the United Nations or the world powers to usher in a Palestinian state. They cannot force Israel to return the occupied territories to its owners. But the Arab World need not, as it struggles with the diplomatic and political realities of the day, languish in a state of backwardness, corruption and tyranny.

As Hourani wrote: "The fate and the peace of the Near East need not be left to the initiative of Israel alone. Even if Israel opts for a closed, exclusive type of society, and rejects the Arabs as fellow-citizens, we should not do the same ... For in their hearts they know that a closed, exclusive, fanatic Israel can never co-exist with an open, liberal, tolerant Arab society ... Our greatest victory will be the day when the Jews in Palestine will prefer to live in an Arab society rather than in an Israeli one. It is up to us to make that possible."

George Shadromi is the managing editor of the Middle East Times-Egypt Edition, from which this article is reprinted.

LETTERS

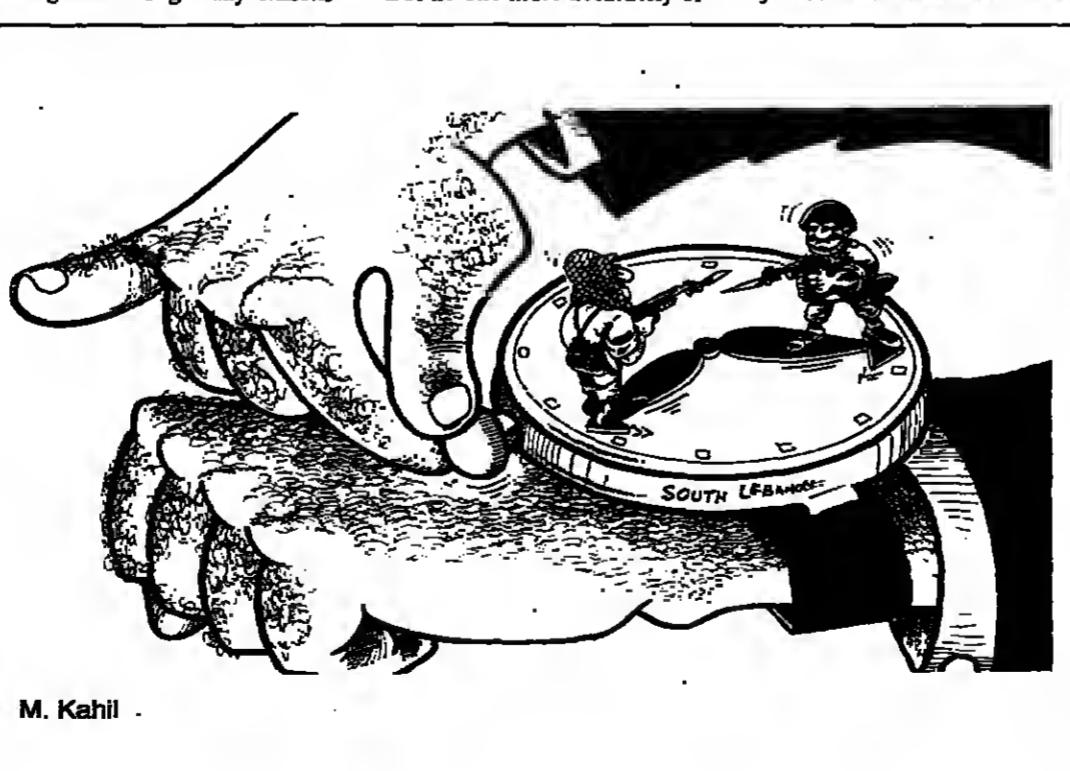
Where is the local input?

To The Editor

I RECENTLY returned from abroad. I opened the May 16 Weekender expecting to read what I was looking forward to reading — E. Yaghi's column. It wasn't there. I hope that does not mean that it is no longer part of your paper. It has been a weekly item for a long time now, and I enjoy having local input in the paper. You used to have a column called "Focus" by Marjan Shahin that I also looked forward to with pleasure, but that has been gone for a long time. Nermene Murrad had a column called "Diary" that was always fun to read, but that is gone too.

I like the Weekender. There is often good material from the international press offered. Sometimes it is of interest to me and sometimes not, but there is always something I am glad that I have read. More local input would enrich it. E. Yaghi's column is local, fresh, and interesting. I do not always agree with it, but that is part of the value. It is stimulating to have a chance to see things from another point of view, and it is well and sensitively written.

Barbara Yates
P.O. Box 926967
Amman.



M. Kahil

مكتبة من الأصل

Portugal supports U.S.-led efforts

(Continued from page 1)

the Middle East and noted that as Portugal is a European Community member it can only support the collective decisions which were passed by the community over the Middle East questions over the past years. He said that his country would give impetus to all efforts designed to bring about peace.

"We feel that there is an opportunity now to push the peace process forward, and we have to provide more effort to reach not only the ending of the conflict but to reach a comprehensive peace in the region," he said.

Europe has sought a role in the proposed peace conference, a position supported by Arab states and the Palestinians, who want the talks to have as much international involvement as possible.

Israel has maintained that U.S. and Soviet backing for the conference is sufficient.

Mr. Deus Pinheiro visited Syria on Sunday and met with President Hafez Al Assad and Minister of State Naser Kaddour. They discussed the Middle East peace efforts and relations between Syria and the EC.

In a departure statement, the Portuguese minister said:

"My objectives were to discuss with the Jordanian authorities the current situation in the Middle East and the relation between the EC and the region, and, in this particular case, with Jordan, taking into account recent developments, but essentially future prospects. And I could benefit from listening to my colleague and to His Majesty because a very good picture was given to

me, a very clear one on the main issues which ought to be addressed now and ought to be considered in the future."

On Portugal's stand on Israel's refusal to accept the participation of the EC in a peace conference, he said: "My impression is that Israel will accept full participation of the EC. I am persuaded of that."

Mr. Masri said:

"Portugal will become member of the European Troika as of July and thus will have an important role to play. It will also become chairman of the EC as of next January. Therefore the minister's visit to Jordan was not only because Portugal is part of Europe, but also because it will have a leading position in Europe in the coming year."

"As the Portuguese minister said, Portugal is a small country which is far from the region. It does not have close relations with us, but it started showing various interests. These interests will be crystallized bilaterally with the countries of the region."

"The Portuguese minister wanted to know Jordan's views concerning the Palestinian issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the current peace efforts. He will also be acquainted with the stands of the countries which he already visited or will visit to have the full picture of what is going on when Portugal joins the EC. So the visiting official's talks here concentrate on Jordan's views, the peace process, coordination among Arab states on the peace process... all of these were the issues the Portuguese minister discussed in his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and with me later."

(Continued from page 1)

They were deployed by the United Nations Sunday to try to create a climate of calm to encourage refugees to come back.

The group is the vanguard of 400 to 500 U.N. security men to be stationed throughout Iraq as a confidence-building measure.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that a mass demonstration took place in the Dohuk region Sunday in protest against the foreign presence in the area. American and allied troops created their "safe haven" for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq without Baghdad's consent. The U.N. guards who arrived Sunday came by agreement with the government.

"The demonstrators declared they supported President Saddam Hussein and stood behind his leadership to maintain Iraq's dignity and pride," said the INA report.

It said the protest was held in Dohuk governorate but did not say where. The province has an area of 8,800 square kilometres much of it now under Western control.

INA said part of the demonstration was shown on Baghdad Television.

U.N. sets up damages fund

(Continued from page 1)

Netherlands, are other candidates.

Sanctions were imposed against Iraq on Aug. 6, four days after its invasion of Kuwait. But under

terms of an April 3 Security Council resolution they are to be partially lifted once Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction are scrapped and a compensation fund is set up.

Lahd unhappy with treaty

(Continued from page 1)

Major-General Lahd told a news conference at his command headquarters in the South Lebanon town of Marjayoun that signing the treaty would be a "disaster" that "will make Lebanon a Syrian satellite and would gradually lead to Lebanon's extinction."

His remarks were broadcast by his Voice of the South radio station.

Gen. Lahd commands the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a 3,000-man militia equipped and funded by Israel. The SLA and about 1,000 Israeli troops jointly patrol an enclave, which Israel has continued to occupy in South Lebanon since it withdrew from land further north in 1985.

Israel regards the "security zone" as a buffer against guerrilla raids.

Gen. Lahd said ratification of the treaty "will also mean that there will be no implementation of U.N. resolution 425" — a 1978 Security Council measure calling for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from South Lebanon.

"The treaty sets the ground for Syria to annex Lebanon," Gen. Lahd said. "We cannot allow that and cannot consequently ask Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon."

Syria has been the main power broker in Lebanon since it deployed 40,000 troops here under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. Its troops patrol half of Lebanon's territory.

It has pressured the country's militias to surrender their arms to the government in line with the new peace plan, which has so far allowed the army to extend its control over one-quarter of the country.

President Hafez's government on Wednesday approved the draft treaty, which provides for cooperation in political, security, economy, culture and foreign affairs.

Yemenis divided over Gulf crisis policy

By Mariam Isa
Reuter

SANA — Yemeni officials say they have no regrets over Sanaa's pro-Iraq stance that ended vital financial aid from neighbouring Gulf Arab states and led to the expulsion of nearly a million Yemeni expatriates.

But some people in the poorest state in the Arabian peninsula are publicly criticising the government. They say its Gulf policies had worsened the severe economic crisis in Yemen, which celebrates its first anniversary of unity between north and south on Tuesday between north and south on

January.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Sanaa's main financial donors — were punishing Yemen for what he described as its neutral stand in the crisis.

He said the GCC states were refusing to open a dialogue with

Yemen, while talks had never stopped with the United States, which led the military coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait last February.

"Had we known 20 years ago that this money would be used towards the end (as) they (GCC) had in mind, I would, personally, wish Yemen had never taken it," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Had they accepted Yemen to be neutral we would never have suffered a single problem. But they wanted us to come with them to the front line and kill or be killed — they wanted us to join the allied coalition against Iraq," he said.

Yemen, at the time the only Arab member of the U.N. Security Council, condemned Iraq's conquest of Kuwait last August 2 but voted against a resolution authorising the use of force against Baghdad.

Iryani said Sanaa had abstained from voting on other U.N. resolutions against Iraq only be-

cause they created a "total bias" for the United States and its allies.

"Today we don't regret any resolution to which we said no or to which we said yes. Yemen was convinced, rightly or wrongly, that Iraq could be made, not persuaded, to withdraw from Kuwait without war," he said.

Sanaa has respected a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq but western diplomats say it had little choice.

Critics and opposition leaders have urged the government to mend fences with the Gulf Arab states, saying that Yemen, an impoverished state of 11 million people, was the main loser.

But Iryani said such a step was impossible because some GCC states — Oman being a notable exception — had closed the door to dialogue during the crisis.

He said Yemen was now back on "absolutely good terms" with Egypt and Syria, Arab members of the anti-Iraq alliance.

Relations were also good with

European nations and Sanaa was "mending fences" with the United States because the dialogue between the two countries had never been interrupted, he said.

"There is a tremendous difference between coming to someone who refused a dialogue with you a few months ago and someone who was in dispute with you but kept the dialogue open," Iryani

said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tens of thousands of Yemenis took to the streets during the crisis, denouncing U.S. President George Bush and calling King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as U.S. agents.

The critics say this was the final straw for GCC members — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"I think what really upset ev-

erybody was the demonstrations

... we gave nothing materially to Iraq," Mohammad Abulaboum, parliament member from former north Yemen and chairman of the body's ergonomic committee told Reuters.

"The way we presented ourselves was very bad — there were demonstrations with bad caricatures of heads of state, we threw stones at embassies," said Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, a southerner who heads the League of Sons of Yemen, an opposition party.

"The demonstrations were directed by the T.V. and government staff had permission to go. We could have done nothing," he said.

"Yemen should have adopted a policy which protected the interests of its citizens ... and Yemeni immigrants in the Gulf area," said opposition leader Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Abmar, head of the powerful Hashid tribal confederation in northern Yemen on the Saudi

border.

Up to a million Yemenis, mainly from Saudi Arabia, returned home penniless after the oil-rich kingdom withdrew special residence and work privileges for Yemenis last October.

Officials say the exodus doubled Yemen's unemployment rate to 30 per cent and the subsequent loss of expatriate remittances dried up its main source of foreign currency.

Mr. Iryani estimated Yemen's total losses from the Gulf crisis at \$6 billion. These included Yemeni property abandoned in Saudi Arabia, he said.

He said Yemen was close to settling a long-running border dispute with Oman, a GCC member which often mediates for the group and took a softer line towards Iraq in the crisis.

"We both agreed to put the crisis behind us and we almost have a date to get together. Definitely we will resolve our border dispute," he said.

Hundreds of cholera cases in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

carried into the country by people returning from the Haj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

He described the latest outbreak as an epidemic and said authorities believed "it is imported from Turkey and Iran because of the population movement."

Talal Ibrahim Allo, the director of Qadisiyah hospital, said he had no problem treating cholera.

A shortage of drugs because of U.N. sanctions against Iraq had been resolved since foreign medical aid began arriving in mid-April, he added.

Two cholera patients at the hospital on Monday, a brother and sister aged five and seven, contracted the disease eating un-washed apples, according to their mother.

Qadisiyah hospital serves Saddam City, a run-down district of

one million Shiites named after President Saddam Hussein on the outskirts of Baghdad. Sanitation in the area has traditionally been poor.

Mr. Murzi has changed his view of the cholera threat since 10 days ago, when he said he was not too worried about the danger of the disease spreading with the onset of summer heat. He said his assessment now "changed daily."

Iraq has restored some electricity and water supplies since the Gulf war air attacks on power stations paralysed generating capacity.

But Mr. Murzi said the limited amount of electricity available was now being spread more thinly, as more towns and cities were reconnected to the national grid.

He said Health Ministry officials told him on Monday that no sewage processing plants were working in Iraq because they consumed so much electricity.

Palestinians mark massacre

(Continued from page 1) nno's Bekaa Valley to protest their expulsion from the Gaza Strip, the relief agency said Monday.

The four, accused of anti-Israeli violence, were expelled Saturday. They spent the night at the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and then requested a move to the Red Cross office.

On Sunday, they held a sit-in and appealed to international organisations to help stop Israeli repression in the occupied territories, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official in Beirut said.

The four men, all from the Gaza Strip, are Jamal Abu Habe, 43, Muine Msalam, 31, Hashem Ali Dahlan, 31, and Jamal Abu Jadyan, 33.

At present, the service is being carried on the Intelstar VI satellite. Nearly a million households are receiving it, mainly via cable networks in Europe.

The formula for WSTV is one that the sales team believe will prove more attractive to would-be buyers. Jeff Hazell, director of sales and distribution, is saying to the cable companies that "you cannot run a serious cable network without World Service Television." The new schedule, he continues, is so far ranging and attractive that it has already encouraged a swift and enthusiastic response from viewers.

Bakhtaran, bordering Iraqi Kurdistan, was at one point host to more than 400,000 Iraqi refugees.

IRNA said another 100,000 refugees set up Baktaran had applied to return but a shortage of vehicles to drive them to the border from refugee camps slowed down their movement.

IRNA quoted a province health official as saying 796 refugee babies had been born in Baktaran hospitals.

Tehran, told a news conference in Geneva Friday that between 8,000 and 10,000 refugees were returning from Iran each day and the population in Iranian refugee camps had dropped to 850,000.

IRNA said another 100,000 refugees set up Baktaran had applied to return but a shortage of vehicles to drive them to the border from refugee camps slowed down their movement.

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BBC world service television is coming

It is 1990 GMT. You can hear the *Lillibulero* theme that introduces every BBC World Service radio news bulletin on the hour. But this version, slightly different, heralds BBC World Service Television. A satellite channel that aims to become, like the BBC world service, a true world service. Vicky Payne from the BBC went to find out more.

IT IS the evening news. But no one living in Britain will see it. This bulletin on BBC World Service Television (WSTV) is unique because it has been specially compiled for an international audience, not a domestic one. In fact, just as it is the case on World Service radio, a British story might not be included at all unless the editorial team believes it warrants coverage within a worldwide context.

The idea for WSTV was first seriously mooted six years ago. Last December the project got the go-ahead. It is funded by money from BBC Enterprises, which is the commercial arm of the BBC.

The channel is on air 18 hours a day (12 at weekends) and the schedules are in the enviable position of being able to fill these hours with the cream of the BBC's output: drama, situation comedies, soap operas, documentaries, and current affairs and nature programmes to name but a few. There are also regular slots from BBC English, the language-teaching section from World Service radio. Much this... put will have subtitles to help viewers for whom English is a second language.

At present, the service is being carried on the Intelstar VI satellite. Nearly a million households are receiving it, mainly via cable networks in Europe.

The news team also commissions material especially for its bulletins. Ramsland dispatched Belgrade correspondent Jim Fish to Croatia in Yugoslavia to report on the complex situation there. "We wanted someone to stand back and explain the basic players. We ran his two reports over a weekend. The pictures were beautiful."

He chooses his words with care. The team is conscious that in a bulletin of 30 minutes, many, if not most, of the stories are going to be concerned with the tribulations of humankind. "It is important not to have a sledgehammer approach. Something

like Jim Fish's piece gave up stunning pictures which nevertheless put over a serious message — placed properly within a bulletin it worked well."

However vital to the image and important to the schedules, the news is nonetheless only one small part of World Service Television's output.

Editor John Ramsland, a former Bush House newsman, knows his audience. Within 12 weeks of

Graf wins German Open final

BERLIN (AP) — Steffi Graf of Germany won her fifth German Open Championship defeating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6).

The first-seeded Graf, got off to a quick start in the first set, breaking Sanchez Vicario in the fourth game to jump to a 3-1 lead.

The two traded service until the 7th game, when Sanchez Vicario broke back making it 4-3. Graf then broke Spanish ace again and held serve to win 6-3.

Graf opened the second-set by breaking the fifth-seeded Sanchez Vicario in the first game without losing a point.

But then the German started missing first serves and double-faulted with the score at 15-15, and Sanchez Vicario stepped up her attack to break Graf, and hold serve to lead 2-1.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Treble wins at Longchamp

PARIS (R) — Treble, a threequarters sister to prolific French race mare Triptych, lived up to her illustrious origins by winning the group one Prix Saint-Alary at Longchamp. Treble, ridden by Freddie Head, made virtually all the running and, after being headed by Polemic and Pat Eddery a furlong (200 metres) out ran on again to score by threequarters of a length. The field for the 10-furlong (2-km) event was cut to six with the withdrawal of Masslama. The filly would have been favourite but injured a hock. Treble was made the even money first choice in Masslama's absence. Both Treble and Polemic are likely to renew rivalry in the Prix De Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly on June 9.

Wright to captain England

LONDON (R) — Mark Wright will lead England for the first time in a friendly soccer international with the Soviet Union at Wembley Tuesday. The 27-year-old central defender, winning his 36th cap, replaces Tottenham's Gary Lineker, who is unavailable. Wright has emerged as a key figure for England after being recalled by their manager Bobby Robson during the World Cup finals last year in a sweeper role. He made 11 successive appearances, a run ended when he failed a fitness test for a calf problem for the European Championship qualifying victory in Turkey earlier this month. Wright is the third captain appointed by Graham Taylor during his seven matches in charge of England.

Forest manager vows to fight on

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough brushed aside suggestions he might retire following his side's defeat by Tottenham in Saturday's English F.A. Cup final. "You can only look forward in this game and there's no way I'm quitting yet, if football thinks it's seen the back of my big head it can think again," Clough said. The F.A. Cup continues to elude Clough, a rare blot on a glittering 25-year managerial career in which he has won two English League titles, four League Cups and two European Cups. "I'll do my best to be back next year, doing the same things," the 56-year-old Clough said. "But hopefully next time around we'll go to Wembley and return to the midlands with the trophy."

Tyson may fight Ruddock after all

NEW YORK (AP) — Donovan "Razor" Ruddock may fight Mike Tyson on June 28 after all, according to the National. The U.S.-based sports newspaper in Monday's editions quoted Ruddock's promoter, Murad Mohammad, as saying the fight may be held at the Mirage Casino in Las Vegas if Mohammad's one-year suspension is lifted by the Nevada State Athletic Commission. According to the National, Mohammad met twice with Tyson's promoter, Don King, and Mirage owner Steve Wynn over the weekend. Wynn is reported to have told at least one close associate that the Tyson-Ruddock rematch is back on. However, Chuck Minker, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said Sunday that Mohammad hasn't filed an appeal for his suspension, the newspaper said. Mohammad was fined \$25,000 and suspended one year for kicking Tyson trainer Richie Giachetti when a melee broke out inside the ring following the Tyson-Ruddock fight in March.

Soviet, Kenyan win Cleveland Marathon

CLEVELAND (AP) — Alevtina Naumova of the Soviet Union, unaware that her closest challenger was only seconds behind, held on to win the Revco Cleveland Marathon in a record time of 2 hours, 35 minutes and 32 seconds. The men's marathon nearly saw a record, as Paul Kipkoech of Kenya missed by three seconds, running a 2:14:26. The men's 10-kilometre event was marred by the death of a suburban Cleveland man who collapsed about two-thirds of the way through. Cuyahoga County coroner Elizabeth Bairaj identified him as Brian McNitt, 26, of Shaker Heights.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

LOSE THE RIGHT TRICK

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 9
A J 10 2
A 10 6 3
♦ A Q 3

WEST
♦ 6 3
K 8 6 4
8 7 5
♦ J 9 8 7

EAST

7 5
Q 9 7 5
Q J 9 2

♦ K 10 4

SOUTH
♦ A K J 10 8 4 2
3
K 4
♦ 6 5 2

THE BIDDING:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 2 Pass

2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

4 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Pass

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 2 Pass

2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

4 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Eight of

"Unusual play," observed the kibitzer. "Declarer lost a trick in a suit in which he had no loser, and conceded a lead in a suit where he might have lost two!" This is the paradoxical deal.

South had just one message to convey, and he did so forcibly when he elected to jump to four spades at his next-to-last turn. With first-round controls in all the side suits and a key trump honor, North, who had been bidding time while South confirmed a spade one-suiter, felt justified in raising to four.

In the fourth game, Graf started off with a double fault and again dence giving Sanchez Vicario another possible break; but the German bated back and tied the set at 2-2 when her opponent netted the final volley.

Sanchez Vicario held her own serve, broke Graf, and then held serve again to move to a 5-2 lead, as the two chased each other from corner to corner, changing pace with high looping shots and occasional charges to the net.

Graf held serve in the 8th game, and broke Sanchez Vicario in the 9th, taking the score to 5-4, but the Spaniard broke Graf in the next game to win 6-4, and tie the match at one all.

The third set was also a case of service breaks with the two players battling out long volleys taking the set to a tie-break playoff.

Graf jumped to a 5-2 lead in



Steffi Graf

the tie-break, but Sanchez Vicario came back to even it at 6-6. With both players nervous and fighting hard to keep the ball in

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, 1. 5. 1991

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound*	1.7110	1.6970
Deutsche Mark	1.7385	1.7563
Swiss Franc	1.4700	1.4797
French Franc	5.8885	5.9522 **
Japanese Yen	138.35	138.80
European Currency Unit	1.1830	1.1690 **

* USD Per STG
** European Opening & 8:00 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 20/5/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.95	6.12	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.87	11.50	11.31	11.00
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.87	9.00	9.06
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.00	8.00	8.00
French Franc	9.00	9.00	9.06	9.12
Japanese Yen	7.84	7.65	7.62	7.37
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.43	9.46	9.45

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 20/5/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.45	6.65	Silver	4.01	.087

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1613	1.1671
Deutsche Mark	.3898	.3917
Swiss Franc	.4621	.4644
French Franc	.7150	.7156
Japanese Yen*	.4917	.4942
Dutch Guilder	.3460	.3477
Swedish Krona	.1104	.1110
Italian Lira*	.0523	.0528
Belgian Franc	.01942	.01952

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7450	1.7550
Lebanese Lira*	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1813	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1835	.1845
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7450
UAE Dirham	.1835	.1845
Greek Drachma*	.3550	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4170	1.4370

* For 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	18/5/1991 Close	19/5/1991 Close
All-Share	114.00	114.17
Banking Sector	110.42	110.71
Insurance Sector	112.47	112.56
Industry Sector	118.42	118.26
Services Sector	124.23	125.44

December 31, 1990 = 100

U.S. firms discover Gulf Arab market

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — American businessmen came to the Gulf seeking riches in Kuwait. They found them in lesser-known places like Qatar instead.

"People came here with single-minded goal of Kuwait, but they've opened up to rest of the region," said Diego Portales, director of international business development for the state of Maryland.

All those events were independent of Czechoslovakia's own internal problems, he noted.

"On Jan. 1, the Soviet Union introduced convertible currency and world prices in its foreign trade, and the only solution for us is to look for other markets," Calfee said.

Czechoslovakia's exports to Soviet Union are expected to drop by about 70 per cent this year.

The country is looking for new markets for its products, "but if we fail, we simply can't afford to produce goods we cannot sell," he said.

Meanwhile, Czechoslovakia faces a jump in unemployment and a sharp drop in industrial production this year as the old communist economic system continues to break down, Labour Minister Petr Miller has said.

Organisers said one-third of the companies participating had never entered the export market and had no experience operating in the region.

But the recession in the United States and prospects of million-dollar reconstruction contracts prompted many companies to take the risk of pushing into the Middle East market in the wake of the Gulf war.

"Everyone must accept that our company is not a social welfare institution. We must adjust to the demands of the market and so in the future we will be compelled to charge far more for our services," said Jeno Ladanyi, the director of the state-owned Municipal Funeral Institute.

Stripped of practically all state subsidies, the company, as yet unchallenged by the growing entrepreneurial spirit in Hungary, is still selling equipment to test microchip failures to countries in the region.

The thawing of the cold war and strengthened U.S. ties with the Gulf states eased the restriction, Edgerton said.

"I've been to a lot of trade shows, but this one exceeded my wildest dreams," said Edgerton, who said he had commitments for more than \$1 million worth of business.

"We anticipated the Gulf market was good at the moment, given the attitude of the Gulf states toward America," said Randy Tosh, marketing director at the Kansas Department of Commerce. "We actually did better than what we expected."

WARSAW (R) — Poland has raised customs duties on foodstuffs to protect its farm sector against Western imports, a customs spokeswoman has said.

A regulation signed by Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki set an average duty of 20 per cent on foodstuffs — twice as high as the current average tariff on imported industrial goods.

But the government resisted pressure from farmers to raise food tariffs even higher, saying

External changes cost Czechoslovakia \$5b

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (Agencies) — The Gulf war, German unification and changed relations with the Soviet Union have cost Czechoslovakia \$5 billion, the premier has said.

Premier Marian Calfa, speaking in a regular TV address, said the loss of Soviet markets cost the country, struggling to emerge from decades of communism, \$2.5 billion.

The Gulf war cost another \$1.5 billion and German unification and subsequent loss of the east German market accounted for another \$1 billion, he said.

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But the government resisted pressure from farmers to raise food tariffs even higher, saying

such a step would fuel inflation and lead to retaliation from Poland's trade partners.

Angry farmers blocked roads across the country few weeks ago and dumped 500 kilogrammes of butter in the agriculture minister's office last month in protest at what they called the destruction of Polish agriculture by cheap Western imports.

The new tariffs include 20 per cent on beef and pork, up from between 5 and 10 per cent, 30 per cent on butter and sugar which were previously charged at 10 per cent, and 10 per cent on grain and flour which were free of tariffs.

Long passenger queues built up at Madrid's Barajas Airport as Iberia cancelled 179 flights, including 91 European routes and two inter-continental ones, causing delays of up to two hours on flights still running.

About 22,000 Iberia ground staff stayed away from work Monday in their third 24-hour stoppage since last week when workers at state-owned Renfe

said between 10 and 12 per cent of the 15 million population would be out of work at the end of this year.

About 90,000 big school graduates and 145,000 technical graduates would be unable to find jobs when they left school, he said. A fall in production of 15 per cent compared to 1990 was expected.

The problems had been caused by the ending of state subsidies to enterprises and the breakdown of the Soviet-dominated Comecon trading system, he said.

Miller said 230,000 people were now unemployed.

The employment situation in the eastern region of Slovakia was likely to become particularly bleak unless its arms production factories, a key industry, converted their activities to civilian use.

Miller also said that about 94,000 Czechoslovak families, including 212,000 children, are currently living under the subsistence level.

Calling the numbers "very alarming," he said the situation could easily get worse.

"A rise in living costs by only 10 per cent may raise the number of families and children living below subsistence level to 180,000 and 411,000, respectively," Miller noted.

Such an increase would also raise the number of pensioners under the subsistence level from 300,000 to 550,000, he said.

For 120,000 forints (\$1,600), the new rich can opt for a full ceremony including air-conditioned mortuary, special dressing room for priests, a 10-member choir and a Mercedes to deliver the coffin to its final resting place.

A lump-sum service is available for as little as 10,000 forints (\$130). Local government subsidies for the poor make cremation even more affordable.

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Saudi banks see profits after Gulf

Bank Melli Iran, and Pakistan's United Bank each have 10 per cent of USCB.

Chase Manhattan has 15 per cent of SAIB and Industrial Bank BSH out of its 15 per cent of USCB.

Indians vote for new parliament Gandhi hopes to return to power

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indians voted Monday in the first round of a parliamentary election that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi hopes will return him to power in the world's most populous democracy.

Five people were killed in clashes between political rivals that disrupted voting at some of 240,000 polling stations, Indian news agencies reported.

Balloting was suspended at 20 of those sites after hooligans overran the stations or stole ballot boxes, election officials said.

A 3-year-old boy was killed when he was caught in the crossfire of a gunbattle in a village in Uttar Pradesh, United News of India reported.

An election official and two voters were killed in the north-eastern state of Bihar, and one person was killed in a bomb blast in West Bengal state, the agency said. Men firing rifles from a car killed two people in Baghpat, north of New Delhi.

Elections officials said a curfew was imposed on the city of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh after a series of riots.

Ten other people were killed on the eve of the election in New Delhi and elsewhere.

In Muradnagar, a town of 35,000, located 30 miles (50 kilometres) east of New Delhi, hundreds of people battled each other with stones and clubs after a Hindu candidate allegedly struck his Muslim rival.

Opposition politician jailed in Burma

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military rulers have sentenced another opposition politician to a long jail term, a diplomat said Monday.

Cho Cho Kyaw Naing, head of the anti-fascist People's Freedom League, was sentenced to seven years jail on May 12, said the diplomat, who was censored in

the country's opposition leader since ignoring the result of the

Colombian drug lords

to free kidnapped journalists

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's drug lords have said they would free two kidnapped journalists and a mediator said their release could be the prelude to the surrender of cocaine boss Pablo Escobar.

"We have ordered the release of Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon," the drug traffickers, said in a statement sent to news organizations in Medellin, base of Escobar's powerful drug cartel.

The traffickers did not say what or when the journalists would be freed and added that they were acting in response to a well-known Catholic priest, Rafael Garcia Herrera.

They said they wanted to erase any suggestion they were trying to put pressure on an elected assembly meeting to reform the constitution as well as to decide the future of extradition, a key weapon against the drug lords.

Garcia Herrera, who recently held secret talks with Escobar, said he believed the journalists would be freed within the next two to three days.

He said on local radio that the extraditables' move was a possible step towards the surrender of the traffickers.

Cameroon protesters step

up pressure on government

DOUALA, Cameroon (R) — Street protests against the one-party government of Cameroon President Paul Biya went on long into the night in the port city of Douala after the army stopped and then allowed an opposition march to go ahead.

About 50,000 people chanting "Biya thief" marched Sunday to a square where opposition leaders vowed the protest would continue until Biya resigns or holds a national conference.

Biya, in power for nine years, has yielded to pressure to legalise opposition parties but continues to reject calls for a national conference.

Signalling a hardline stance, Biya, 58, has appointed an army general to restore order in the restive Douala area.

The army intervened directly to try to stop the protesters marching through the city's administrative district. Opposition leaders said they were allowed to continue when they pledged the protest would remain peaceful.

Spokesmen said they could not guarantee the campaign would remain peaceful and vowed to keep up the pressure on Biya.

"If Biya does not resign tonight, tomorrow he will," screamed a militant opposition spokeswoman in wild applause.

Many tired demonstrators were heading home in groups but most stayed in the city centre, prompting fears of unrest later.



Eight people were injured, four seriously. Paramilitary troops separated the fighters and took up positions around the polling station.

"The violence was expected because all candidates are rogues and rascals," said one bystander.

Violence is endemic in Indian politics. Although more than 100 people were killed in election-related incidents in the past month, Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan said the campaign was more peaceful than he expected.

Voting was held Monday for 201 of the 543 elected seats in the Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament.

A 3-year-old boy was killed when he was caught in the crossfire of a gunbattle in a village in Uttar Pradesh, United News of India reported.

An election official and two voters were killed in the north-eastern state of Bihar, and one person was killed in a bomb blast in West Bengal state, the agency said. Men firing rifles from a car killed two people in Baghpat, north of New Delhi.

Elections officials said a curfew was imposed on the city of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh after a series of riots.

Ten other people were killed on the eve of the election in New Delhi and elsewhere.

In Muradnagar, a town of 35,000, located 30 miles (50 kilometres) east of New Delhi, hundreds of people battled each other with stones and clubs after a Hindu candidate allegedly struck his Muslim rival.

The turnout was reported slow at first, but appeared to pick up during the day. The average turnout in general elections is 55 per cent.

A right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the country's no. 2 party, breaking the traditional election model of centre versus the left.

Bharatiya Janata campaigned on a platform of Hindu assertiveness, promising to end the special protection accorded to Muslims and other minorities. It seeks an India based on the domination of Hindu tradition, as opposed to the Nehru model of a modern secular state, and advocates economic liberalisation and less government interference.

The campaign focused on the

place of Hinduism and caste in modern India, issues that split the

nation and led to widespread violence last year.

But opinion surveys indicated voters are more concerned with inflation and jobs. Official figures, which consider conservative, say prices rose to 12 per cent from 8 per cent last year.

Singh's faction, which united anti-Congress forces in 1989, was expected to lose heavily. Chandra Shekhar, lacking any national organization, was likely to fare poorly.

About 107 million eligible voters live in the nine states voting Monday. India's register of 14 million voters made the election the largest exercise in democracy the world has seen.

More than 15 million policemen were on election duty, and 50,000 paramilitary forces of the Central Reserve Police were sent to areas which the Election Commission has labelled "sensitive."

Elections have been postponed until June in Punjab, the centre of the Sikh insurrection, and in the eastern state of Jharkhand, where militiamen are campaigning to leave the Indian union. The two states control a total of 27 parliament seats.

No elections are being held in the six constituencies of Assam, which is facing a rebellion by pro-Independence and pro-independence Muslim militants.

Elections have been postponed in three constituencies in other states where candidates have died.

Bangladesh

student

murder

trial

murder

murder